Free books in primary schools in H.P.

1461. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide free text books and note books in primary schools in Himachal Pradesh, in order to encourage people below the poverty line to send their children to schools; and

(b) if so, the funds provided to the State during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to the information furnished by Government of Himachal Pradesh free text books are being provided to all SC/ST/OBC and students of Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP) families in Non-Tribal Area and to all students of Tribal Areas in the State. Free writing material is also being provided to all students in Tribal Area and to the poor students of all categories in Non-Tribal Areas.

(b) Year-wise Funds allocated for the purpose is given as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Funds
1999-2000	269.12
2000-2001	359.50
2001-2002	302.00

Compulsory State Languages in School

1462. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has made Kannada language compulsory at school level in the State;

(b) what would be the effect of such decision if other States also make State language compulsory at school level;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter to make State language compulsory in primary and secondary education; and

(d) if not, what steps Government are taking to avoid the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per the information received from the Government of Karnataka, mother tongue of a child or the Kannada has been made medium of instruction from first standard to fourth standard. In addition, passing of Kannada has been made compulsory in addition to any other two languages at the Secondary School Leaving Certificate level.

(b) to (d) States are advised to follow the Three Language Formula and the NCERT's National Curriculum Framework in view of National Policy on Education 1986. Accordingly, the primary education should be imparted in mother tongue and one of the languages to be studied at the secondary stage should be the regional language.

Welfare measures for women

†1463. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to take any effective steps for the welfare of women during the women's empowerment year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of activities proposed by the Department of Women & Child Development during the Women's Empowerment Year 2001

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.